POL 14 VIET-S

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action FE
Info SS G SP SAH L H IO P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA DCD RSR

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INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 11/24/82
ED Exc XD EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
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AUGUST 11

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: U.S. TROOP PARTICIPATION INVIETNAMESE ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 24436

1. WE CONCUR ENTIRELY IN PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PARA TWO REFTEL AS ANSWER TO ANY QUERIES INSPIRED BY LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY. WE INTEND TO USE IT HERE IN RESPECT TO ANY INJURIES THAT MIGHT ARISE.

2. WE HAVE HEARD NO TALK HERE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF U.S. TROOPS BEING USED TO "MONITOR" SEPTEMBER 11 DECISION FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. FROM VIETNAMESE SIDE THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT POSSIBILITY U.S. PROVIDING LOGISTICS ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE CNADIDATES TO GET ABOUT THEIR DISTRICTS DURING CAMPAIGN. THANG HAS RAISED THIS WITH LANSDALE AND BUI DIEM RAISED IT WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR. WE HAVE OPPOSED THIS IDEA BECAUSE, OBVIOUSLY, INEQUITIES WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE AND THOSE CANDIDATES WHO FELT SLIGHTED WOULD PROBABLY END UP ACCUSING US OF SHOWING FAVORITISM TOWARD THEIR OPPONENTS. THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER EXCELLENT ARGUMENT AGAINST OUR PROVIDING SUCH SUPPORT: VC PROPAGANDA LINE ON ELECTIONS IS THAT THEY ARE AMERICAN DEVICE DESIGNED TO DUPE THE VIETNAMESE. SPECTALE OF CANDIDATES BEING TRANSPORTED AROUND THEIR DISTRICTS IN USAF OR USARMY PLANES OR HELICOPTERS WOULD GO LONG WAY TOWARD CONFIRMING THIS LINE IN MINDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD IT.

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3. USE OF U.S. TROOPS TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN IMMEDITE VICINITY OF POLLING PLACES IS, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. IT IS ASSUMED, HOWEVER, THAT NORMAL MILITARY OPERATIONS WILL BE CONTINUING OVER ELCTION

DAY AND THAT U.S. FORCES MAY INDEED BE ENGAGING VC OR NVA UNITS WHICH MIGHT BE ATTACKING PROVINCE OR DISTRICT CAPITALS IN EFFORT TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS. BY COUNTERING SUCK ENEMY ACTION, US FORCES MIGHT BE INDRIECTLY PROVIDING SECURITY FOR POLLING PLACES. LODGE
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